

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 4-7 and 11-15 have been cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 16-28 are pending. Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 16 are amended, and claims 17-28 are added. Claims 1, 17, and 23 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

The Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 21, 2004, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objection to the drawings for allegedly not showing "the Belleview spring" or "rubber washer" as recited in claims 8, 10, 12, and 14. By way of this amendment, the Applicants have amended claims 8 and 10, and have cancelled claims 12 and 14 to remove the subject matter that the Examiner considers to be not shown in the drawings.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification and Title

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, paragraphs [0020], [0024], [0025], and [0026] of the specification have been amended to provide antecedent basis for "regulating device", as well as to correctly identify the first shaft 17 and the second shaft 16.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the Title, the Title has been revised as follows: ~~VIBRATION-PROOF~~ VIBRATION REDUCING STRUCTURE FOR A GEAR TRANSMISSION DEVICE.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 4 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 6. In order to overcome this objection, the subject matter of claim 4 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled in order to address the issue pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1-8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riley, Jr. (U.S. 3,320,824) in view of Tsergas (U.S. 2004/0031343); and claims 9, 11, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riley, Jr. in view of Tsergas, and further in view of Grant (U.S. 6,361,257).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 17, and 23

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a gear transmission device, including *inter alia*

wherein the regulating means includes:

a plane washer having one face positioned against a planar surface on an end face of the second fixed wall;

a cylindrical portion being formed on a first opposed end face of the first gear;

an elastic member positioned between the cylindrical portion and the plane washer;

a predetermined space formed between the cylindrical portion and the plane washer in contact with the second fixed wall,

wherein said cylindrical portion is capable of operative contact with said planar end surface of said second end wall through direct contact the plane washer, and is capable of regulating a bending amount of said elastic member to a predetermined amount.

As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 now includes *inter alia* the subject matter previously set forth in claim 4.

In addition, independent claim 17 has been added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a gear transmission device, including *inter alia* wherein the elastic member has an outer dimension substantially equal to an outer dimension of the second fixed wall.

Further, independent claim 23 has been added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a gear transmission device, including *inter alia* wherein the regulating means includes a plane washer with an outer diameter substantially equal to an outer diameter of the cylindrical portion formed on the first gear.

Support for the novel combination of features set forth in claims 1, 17, and 23 can be seen in FIG. 2.

In contrast to the present invention, and as conceded by the Examiner, the Riley, Jr. document fails to disclose a shaft disposed between first and second walls. The Examiner then relies on the Tsergas document to teach first and second walls.

As can be seen in Riley, Jr. FIG. 3, this document discloses an O-Ring 68 between the hub of gear 66 and the adjacent face of ring 63.

In contrast to the invention set forth in independent claim 1, Tsergas fails to teach a plane washer. In addition, as can be seen in Riley, Jr. FIG. 3, the hub of gear 66 is separated from ring 63 by O-ring 68. Therefore, the combination of Riley, Jr. and Tsergas cannot teach or suggest “a plane washer having one face positioned against a planar surface on an end face of the second fixed wall;

a cylindrical portion being formed on a first opposed end face of the first gear;
an elastic member positioned between the cylindrical portion and the plane washer;
a predetermined space formed between the cylindrical portion and the plane washer in contact with the second fixed wall,

wherein said cylindrical portion is capable of operative contact with said planar end surface of said second end wall through direct contact the plane washer, and is capable of regulating a bending amount of said elastic member to a predetermined amount", as set forth in independent claim 1.

In contrast to the invention set forth in independent claim 17, it is impossible to compare the outer dimensions of O-ring 68 of Riley, Jr. with the outer dimension of the second wall 134 of Tsergas. Therefore, the combination of Riley, Jr. and Tsergas cannot teach or suggest "wherein the elastic member has an outer dimension substantially equal to an outer dimension of the second fixed wall", as set forth in independent claim 17.

In contrast to the invention set forth in independent claim 23, gear 66 of Riley, Jr. has a cylindrical portion, however, the outer diameter of the cylindrical portion of gear 66 is much larger than the outer diameter of ring 63.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 17, and 23 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Riley, Jr. and Tsergas.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 17, and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2-3, 8-10, and 16 have been amended, dependent claims 4-7 and 11-15 have been cancelled, and dependent claims 18-22 and 24-28 have been added by way of this amendment.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

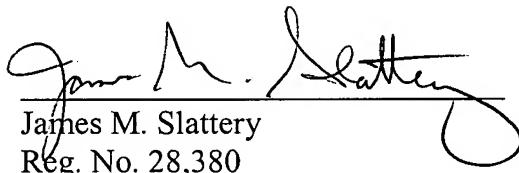
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Date: April 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JMS:CTT:af

